



## SPECIAL EDITION

### ● The Department Is Seeking Stakeholder Input For Proposed Rule Changes

Any stakeholder in the electrical industry may make proposals for additions and/or revisions to the Washington Administrative Code WAC 296-46B – Electrical Safety Standards, Administration, and Installation electrical rules.

Rules are developed to aid both stakeholders and the department in clarification or enforcement of the intent of the electrical statute. New rules cannot be drafted simply because an individual feels that “it’s a good idea.” Technical changes require evidence of a specific problem and substantiation that the proposal will provide a solution for that problem.

### ● General Rule Revision Process

In the future, the electrical WAC is on an annual cycle to coincide with revisions needed due to legislative action. WAC development process rule revision cycles will be closely modeled towards the process used by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in development of the National Electrical Code. The NFPA code development model has proven to be an efficient and effective model for many decades.

The department is responsible for developing all rules. The department will act as the correlating organization during the rule development process and may at any time promote rule change as necessary to accommodate statutory change or department policies or procedures.

### ● Proposals for Change

Your proposals to WAC 296-46B **must be made electronically** (e.g. compact disc, floppy disk, or as an email attachment sent to [electricalprogram@lni.wa.gov](mailto:electricalprogram@lni.wa.gov)) using the form supplied by the department.

The form shown in this edition must be used to submit rule proposals for the 2004 – 2005 revision cycle. An electronic fill-in version of the form is available on our website homepage:

[www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical](http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical)

Industry proposals **must be received between September 15, 2004 and October 15, 2004**. The submitter may submit a proposal(s) by:

- o Sending the proposal(s) as an email attachment to [electricalprogram@lni.wa.gov](mailto:electricalprogram@lni.wa.gov); or
- o Mailing a compact or floppy disc containing the proposal(s) to Chief Electrical Inspector, P.O. Box 44460, Olympia, WA, 98504-4460.

All proposals must clearly identify original language as “new text.” Proposed revisions should include the relevant existing text and should use the legislative format (i.e. Use underscore (or underlining) to denote wording to be inserted (e.g. inserted wording) and strike-through to denote wording to be deleted (e.g. ~~deleted wording~~)).

**Proposals that are not submitted according to these instructions will be rejected.**

## ● Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – General

The department will appoint a TAC made up of experts and interest group representatives to review and make recommendation on proposals from the electrical industry. The department will use an open, fair, and transparent process to solicit and confirm TAC membership.

**Persons interested in becoming TAC members** must submit a letter of interest to the Chief Electrical Inspector, P.O. Box 44460, Olympia, WA, 98504-4460 **to be received no later than September 10, 2004**. The letter should show constituency support for the prospective member.

Anyone wishing to be kept informed of the WAC process should join the Electrical Listserve at:

<http://listserv.wa.gov/archives/electrical.html>

There will not be a specific mailing list for this process. A special posting of the WAC process will also be made on the electrical program Internet website and through updates in the Electrical Currents newsletter.

TAC makeup will be based on an equitable distribution relative to proportion of involvement within the electrical industry in Washington. TAC membership provides an opportunity for licensed electrical contractors, certified electricians, electrical engineers, electrical manufacturers, city regulators, L&I electrical inspection staff, electrical trainer, electrical testing laboratories, electrical & telecommunications utilities, training schools, and consumers to participate in the WAC development process. A primary representative and an alternate may be identified for each available position.

All TAC meetings are open to the public.

## ● TAC – Process

The TAC will make recommendations on industry proposals and identify proposals that may have an economic impact on small businesses, construction costs, or the cost of enforcement

The TAC must review and evaluate proposals based on the need:

- o To address a critical life/safety need;
- o To address a specific state policy/statute;
- o To maintain a competitive environment;
- o To address a unique character of the State; or
- o To correct errors and omissions.

TAC representatives must have decision-making authority at committee meetings. Members who know they will be absent from a TAC meeting should make every effort to send their alternate.

TAC's will operate on a consensus agreement basis. "Consensus agreement" means a unanimous or near unanimous agreement by the TAC members on an issue. The TAC chairman will determine if consensus has been reached and whether the issue may be revisited. If the TAC chairman determines that a strong majority of TAC members are in agreement, but consensus cannot be reached, a majority and minority recommendation may be forwarded to the department and Electrical Board. TAC recommendations will be summarized for each proposal.

All TAC members share an equal vote.

## ● TAC – Membership

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| o Chairperson– Chief Electrical Inspector | o 1 – City Regulator                   |
| o 1 – Consumer                            | o 1 – Electric Utility                 |
| o 1 – Training School                     | o 1 – Telecommunications Utility       |
| o 1 – Continuing Education Provider       | o 5 – General Electrical Contractors   |
| o 1 – Electrical Engineer                 | o 5 – General Journeyman Electricians  |
| o 1 – Electrical Manufacturer             | o 3 – Specialty Electrical Contractors |
| o 1 – Testing Laboratory                  | o 3 – Specialty Electricians           |
| o 2 – L&I Electrical Inspection Staff     |  |

**● 2004-2005 WAC revision process – Proposed Sequence of Events**

- o **September 1, 2004** – File CR 101 – pre-proposal statement of inquiry
- o **September 15, 2004** – Call for proposals to: amend or add to the existing WAC
- o **October 1, 2004** – TAC membership published
- o **October 15, 2004** – Close proposal period
- o **October 22, 2004** – TAC members individually review proposals
- o **October 28, 2004** – Electrical Board review
- o **November 10, 2004** – TAC meets to act on proposals \*
- o **November 11, 2004** – TAC meets to act on proposals \*
- o **November 17, 2004** – Report on proposals is published for public review and comment
- o **December 1, 2004** – Public comment on proposals closes
- o **December 2, 2004** – Department review and final draft development
- o **January 27, 2005** – Electrical Board review and recommendations
- o **February, 2005** – Final department review
- o **March, 2005** – File CR 102 – proposed rule filing (opens the official required public comment period)
- o **Early April, 2005** – Public hearings
- o **Late April 2005** – File CR 103 – rulemaking order (adoption)
- o **June 2005** – Effective rule
- o **June 2005** – Open proposal period for the next rule cycle

\* Additional meetings may be scheduled if necessary. All TAC meetings are scheduled from 8 AM to 5 PM at the Evergreen Room, Comfort Inn, Tumwater Room, 1620 74<sup>th</sup> Ave., Tumwater, WA 98501.

**PROPOSAL FORM for 2004 – 2005 WAC 296-46B Rule Changes**Rule/Section: \_\_\_\_\_ (X one): ☒ New Text ☐ Revised Text ☐ Deleted Text

**Mail to:** Chief Electrical Inspector  
Department of Labor and Industries  
Electrical Section  
PO Box 44460  
Olympia, WA 98504-4460

**FOR L&I USE ONLY**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

**Email to:** electricalprogram@lni.wa.gov

**NOTES:**

1. All proposals must be **received from September 15, 2004 through October 15, 2004**.
2. Limit each proposal to a single rule section. Use a separate copy for each proposal.
3. Include supplementary material (photographs, diagrams, reports, etc.) if necessary to support your proposal.

**Date submitted:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Representing:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Proposal:** Include new or revised wording, or identification of wording to be deleted. Proposed text should be in legislative format. Use underscore to denote wording to be inserted (e.g. inserted wording) and strike-through to denote wording to be deleted (e.g. ~~deleted wording~~).

**2. Statement of Problem & Substantiation for Proposal:** Note: State the problem that will be resolved by your proposal and substantiation for your proposal.

**3. Check one:** ☐ This proposal is original material ☐ This proposal is not original material